

VZCZCXRO0972  
OO RUEHRG  
DE RUEHRI #0396 3291947  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
O 251946Z NOV 09  
FM AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0033  
INFO RHEHNSC/WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUCPDO/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHINGTON DC  
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 0029  
RUEHRG/AMCONSUL RECIFE 0012  
RUEHRI/AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO  
RUEHSO/AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

UNCLAS RIO DE JANEIRO 000396

SIPDIS  
STATE INR/R/MR  
IIP/R/MR  
WHA/PD  
DEPT PASS USTR  
USDOC 4322/MAC/OLAC/JAFEE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [OIIP](#) [ETRD](#) [XM](#) [XR](#) [BR](#)

SUBJECT: Media Reaction Rio de Janeiro: Dubious and Risky Diplomatic Stance (Brazil-Iran)

Dubious and risky diplomatic stance

Rio-based center-left daily Jornal do Brasil writes: "And finally, to the displeasure of the international community and the protests of human rights organizations, President Lula received in Brasilia the controversial Iranian President, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. (...) To Ahmadinejad, considered a persona non grata in almost the entire world (...) certainly the meeting represented a conquest. (...) To Lula, the visit was another opportunity to place Brazil as a conflict mediator no longer limited to South America. After being involved in the imbroglio in Honduras (...) the country is attempting to have a voice in the complex geopolitical context of the Middle East. In recent weeks, Lula also received the Presidents of the Palestinian Authority, Mahmoud Abbas, and Israel, Shimon Peres. However, the meeting with Ahmadinejad was surprising due to the deference and friendly tone [of Lula towards Ahmadinejad] (...) It is a risky [diplomatic] stance and gives the impression of support, or at least the condoning of the thesis defended by the Iranian President... This is the man who has denied the Holocaust in World War II, who defends the annihilation of Israel and makes homophobic declarations (...) Obtained with fraud, Ahmadinejad's reelection weakened his legitimacy (...) His defiance of international regulations related to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, and in creating difficulties for the IAEA inspections, makes Ahmadinejad a threat to [reaching] a difficult solution in the Middle East conflict. In the meeting, Lula diplomatically supported the Iranian right to develop a nuclear program with "peaceful ends" at the same time that he highlighted the right to "a safe and sovereign Israeli state". In retribution, Ahmadinejad defended Brazil's bid to occupy a permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council. One should question how valid [relevant] this support is." (Nov 25, page A8)

HEARNE